PCT





INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 7:
A61K 31/167, 33/00, A61P 13/10, 23/02, 31/02, 31/04, 41/00 // (A61K 33/00, 31:165) (A61K 33/00, 31:167)

(11) International Publication Number:

WO 00/40234

(43) International Publication Date:

13 July 2000 (13.07.00)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/CA00/00003

A1

(22) International Filing Date:

5 January 2000 (05.01.00)

(30) Priority Data:

60/114,857

6 January 1999 (06.01.99)

US

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Published

With international search report. With amended claims.

(54) Title: TOPICAL ANESTHESIA OF THE URINARY BLADDER

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An aqueous solution of local anesthetic is instilled into the urinary bladder in sufficient concentration with the addition of an alkalinizing agent such as sodium bicarbonate to elevate the intra-vesical pH to approximately 8.0. The combination is left in situ in the bladder for at least fifteen minutes to allow time for absorption of the base form of the local anesthetic. This method provides safe and effective topical anesthesia to allow pain-free cystoscopic biopsy and cautery of bladder lesions such as bladder cancer, and provides a means to treat inflammatory conditions of the bladder such as chronic interstitial cystitis and acute bacterial cystitis.